



UNION MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter
November 6, 2009

Parent Conferences: The first trimester will be ending soon. That means it's time for report cards and parent conferences. If you have not done so already, please make sure you sign up for a conference with your child's teacher on November 17 or 19.

H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic: The H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic on October 28 went really well. 74% of our student body received the vaccination on that day. The second clinic is scheduled for November 30. This, of course, is contingent on there being enough doses available.

Vermont Guard Deployment: Recently, the Colchester school counselors met with Paul Gibeault from the Family Support Assistance Program through the National Guard to discuss the upcoming deployment of Vermont soldiers. They received information about support services available to families. They also had a chance to discuss how our schools can be helpful to children affected by this deployment. If your child is being affected by the deployment, whether through a parent, aunt, uncle or grandparent, please let your child's teacher know. You can also call Carol McCleary, UMS school counselor, at 264-5951 to discuss what you feel will be helpful for you and your child.

ECHO Pass: In the library Mrs. Flanagan has a pass for \$2 admission to the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. The pass allows a family (up to two adults and three youths) to enter the center for only \$2 each. It's a great deal and parents may sign it out from the library just like a book. Please call ahead to make sure it's available.

Fall Book Fair: Mrs. Flanagan would like to extend a big thank you to all of the parents and students who supported the book fair. \$877 was raised to help support library activities such as Red Clover Night and author visits.

Respectfully,

Chris Antonicci
Principal

UPCOMING DATES

November 17 & 19	Parent Conferences
November 25 – 27	Thanksgiving Recess
November 30	H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic at MBS

Report card time can make parents almost as anxious as students. Is your child on track? Is she learning what she needs to know? Are you doing all you can to support her in school? You can, and should, make report card time a chance to talk about your child's progress at school. You should also talk about your expectations. Here are some tips:

- **Take it seriously.** No, a report card can't tell you everything about how your child is doing. But your child's teacher spends a lot of time making sure that the report card shows you a snapshot of where your child is now. Take the time to read it carefully.
- **Find something to praise.** Even if your child didn't do as well as you'd hoped, look for something positive. Be sure to read the comments about your child's behavior and work habits.
- **Don't lose your temper.** If your child's grades weren't what you'd expected, wait until you can talk calmly about what you and your child can do to improve them.
- **Articulate your expectations.** Say things like, "You don't have to be the best. But I do expect you to do your best." Remind her that effort is as important as ability.
- **Look at your child's work.** You only see a report card three times a year. But you look at the work your child is doing every day. Does he do his homework? Does he do his best? There is a link between how hard students work and how much they learn. Point that out to your child.
- **Develop good work habits.** A child who sets aside time every day to read will learn to read better. A child who practices math every day will master math facts.

SOURCE: www.GreatSchools.net